



**PRAISE AND WORSHIP** - Members of the William Carey University band share their unique gifts during the Monday evening session of the Mississippi Baptist State Evangelism Conference. The conference was held at Northcrest Church, Meridian, Jan. 26 - 27. (Photo by Tony Martin)

## Not just your pastor's conference

### Evangelism event a blessing for every Mississippi Baptist

Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

The Mississippi Baptist State Evangelism Conference was held at Northcrest Church, Meridian, Jan. 26-27. According to one pastor, Paul A. Roney Sr., of Richburg Church, Hattiesburg, "Having attended evangelism

conferences for over 25 years in Louisiana and Mississippi, I have to say that this year was one of the, if not the most, wonderful experiences I have ever had. The preachers were all great and the worship through music was phenomenal. I cannot speak for anyone else, but I can say that I was blessed, challenged, and convicted

to be a better Christian, husband, father, and preacher."

Don Lum, director of evangelism at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), shared some of the philosophy behind the Evangelism Conference. "The primary audience has tended to be for pastors and staff, but we are trying very hard to remind our pastors that this is not a pastor's conference. If they can bring leaders from different points in their church,

see CONFERENCE on p. 6

## Baptists address military faith problems

**WASHINGTON (BP and local reports)** - Retired U.S. Army Gen. Doug Carver, who oversees Southern Baptists' chaplain ministry, described "growing ignorance, insensitivity, or intolerance regarding matters of religion" within the U.S. military to a U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee hearing on Jan. 29.

He was joined at the hearing by a number of Congressmen who expressed similar concerns, including four Southern Baptists that counted a Mississippian among its group.

"I am concerned about the perceived tension, misinformation, and suspicion regarding an individual's free exercise of religion and conscience while serving as a member of the Armed Services," Carver stated in testimony he submitted.



**CARVER** **NUNNELEE**

Carver, a former Army chief of chaplains, is currently the executive director for chaplaincy at the North American Mission Board in Alpharetta, Ga. He was unable to attend the hearing in person due to the winter storm that crippled the Atlanta area.

Republican Alan Nunnelee, a member of Calvary Church, Tupelo, who represents Mississippi's First Congressional District in the House, expressed concern over the reported activity taking

place at military briefings held by the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute, saying that anti-Christian statements were made during some of those briefings.

Virginia Penrod, deputy assistant secretary of defense for military personnel policy said at the hearing that she had no reports of such statements and would have to investigate to give a proper answer for the record.

During her testimony, Penrod said a recent teleconference with approximately 30 line chaplains revealed no religious freedom threats. She said command chaplains have not expressed any concerns.

"They have communication with their chaplains, and their

see MILITARY on p. 6

## N. Korea imprisons American Christian for 'religious activities'

**PYONGYANG, North Korea (BP and local reports)**

- Kenneth Bae, an American Christian sentenced to 15 years in a North Korean labor camp, reportedly confessed to committing a "serious crime" against the communist dictatorship where he has been held for 15 months.



**BAE**

When he was arrested in November 2012 while leading a tour group in one of the only Stalinist dictatorships remaining in the world, Bae was on at least his 15th such trip. CNN reported that officially atheist North Korea accused him of planning to bring down the government through religious activities.

In a videotaped "press conference" released through China's state-run news agency Xinhua, Bae said he had not experienced abusive treatment in North Korea, according to CNN.

"I would like to plead with the U.S. government, press and my family to stop worsening my situation by making vile rumors against North Korea and releasing materials related to me, which are not based on the facts," Bae, 45, said in the video.

"I want to be pardoned by the North as soon as possible and return to my beloved family. For that, I ask the U.S. government, press, and my family to make more active efforts and pay more attention," Bae said.

Terri Chung, Bae's sister, released a statement in response, saying the family understands he has been convicted of crimes under North Korean laws.

"Our family sincerely apologizes on Kenneth's behalf," Chung said, according to CNN. "Kenneth has also acknowledged his crimes and has apologized. He has now served 15 months of his sentence, but faces chronic health problems. We humbly ask for your mercy to release my brother."

"Several years ago, Kenneth saw an opportunity that combined his entrepreneurial spirit with his personal convictions as a Christian," the website, freekennow.com, states. "He believed in showing compassion to the North Korean people by contributing to their economy in the form of tourism."

The U.S. State Department, in a statement Jan. 20, said it was aware of Bae's reported confession. "As we have said before, we remain very concerned about Kenneth Bae's health," spokesperson Jen Psaki said. "We continue to urge the [Democratic People's Republic of Korea] authorities to grant Bae amnesty and immediate release."

Bae was born in South Korea and emigrated with his family to the U.S. at the age of 18. At the time of his arrest, he had been living in China with his wife and stepdaughter and managing his North Korea tourism company.

North Korea authorities accused Bae of using the tours as cover for Christian missionary activities, and also alleged he had criticized the North Korean regime while speaking in American churches.

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## From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

### Do we get it?

The Big Game has come and gone. The Super Bowl once again flashed across our televisions and computers with endless pregame analysis, overwrought commercials, a predictably gaudy halftime show, and anticlimactic game play. Frankly, it was a relief when it was finally over — except it was not over thanks to the endless postgame analysis.

As football addicts look forward to the first NFL preseason games in early August, the folks in the league office in New York City are tackling what they perceive to be a serious problem looming directly in front of them.

"NFL games next year will find themselves battling against an adversary that's more powerful than it's ever been: the league's own broadcasts," writes Edward Kiersh on [nbcnews.com](http://nbcnews.com). "Live football is vying against an HDTV and smartphone revolution that threatens its stunning growth and continued preeminence in the United States."

Kiersh points out that ten NFL teams played to stadiums that were less than 95% full on average in 2013 — double the number from five seasons ago — while TV ratings were the highest since the 2006 season.

People aren't coming to the stadiums like they once did.

"We understand TVs are more immersive and we need to give fans greater connectivity," Michelle McKenna-Doyle, the NFL's chief information officer, told Kiersh. "It is a tough challenge. A lot of clubs haven't invested in networks."

"McKenna-Doyle must also convince team owners that more cellular service is not enough," Kiersh writes. "It must be integrated with advanced Wi-Fi networks to assure limitless wireless access for intensive applications."

Brain Dunphy, Qualcomm's senior director of business development, agreed with Kiersh and McKenna-Doyle that the NFL has fallen behind at a time when smartphone usage is increasing more than 20% per year.

"There's so much texting, streaming videos, looking at Fantasy leagues, accessing Netflix, the phone has become a pacifier. Seventy percent of people coming to stadiums have a smart device. The adoption curve of network technology is so incredible, the 'table stakes' for owners is to just meet demand, enhance that connectivity," said Dunphy.

Qualcomm created a system for the Miami Dolphins' Joe Robbie Stadium that allows fans to access information

on concession stands, team statistics, promotional information, and digital messages, according to Kiersh.

Jonathan Kraft, president of the New England Patriots and co-chair of the NFL's Digital Committee, told Kiersh that NFL teams need to provide a "high-class, seamless mobile technology. We need apps showing the shortest line to the bathrooms, pictures and comments of [Patriots starting quarterback] Tom Brady from the team plane and locker room."

Leigh Steinberg, a sports agent who has represented some of the biggest names in football past and present, describes the problem more bluntly.

"The only way the league is going to meet the HDTV challenge is to give fans interactive experiences, contests, games, video content that jumps off the jumbotrons," he told Kiersh. "There are too many boring interludes in stadiums. Americans' attention spans have grown so short, the NFL must provide constant stimulation or else it will soon face a major crisis."

The local Baptist church in Mississippi may be a world away from the NFL in most ways, but we would be wise to heed the lessons the league is learning. Substitute "church" for "NFL," and it becomes obvious that we face the same struggle to reach people in the 21st century.

Similar to the NFL debate, we should be asking ourselves how we can utilize the technology revolution we are undergoing to reach people with the revolutionary message of the Gospel.

How can we make church "immersive" in the modern age? How can we use technology to fill the "interludes" that allow our target audience to so easily drift away? Why should we stand by while other organizations, both religious and secular, surpass us in this vital area?

Lastly, what are the consequences of failing to grasp the opportunity laid at our doorstep? The answer is found in a telling quote Kiersh included in his article from an unidentified NFL team executive: "The only way some [NFL team] owners can use the internet is for someone else to switch on a computer and tap the keys for them... If teams don't become more engaging with Wi-Fi and apps, people won't come to the games."

May it never be said of us that we failed to avail ourselves of every opportunity — every opportunity — to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus (Matt. 28:18-20) in our time. Let's get started.

## What's the difference?

Philosophically, we can say that embryos are less developed than newborns (or, for that matter, toddlers) but this difference is not morally significant in the way abortion advocates need it to be.

Consider the claim that the immediate capacity for self-awareness bestows value on human beings. Notice that this is not an argument, but an arbitrary assertion. Why is some development needed, and why is this particular degree of development (i.e., higher brain function) decisive rather than another?

These are questions that abortion advocates do not adequately address.

There is no morally significant difference between the embryo that you once were and the adult that you are today, as Stephen Schwarz pointed out in the 1990 book, *The Moral Question of Abortion*.

Differences of size, level of development, environment, and degree of dependency are not relevant such that we can say that you had no rights as an embryo but you do have rights today. Think of Schwarz's acronym SLED as a helpful reminder of these non-essential differences:

**Size.** Embryos are smaller than newborns and adults, but why is that relevant? Do we really want to say that large people are more human than small ones? Men are generally larger than women, but that doesn't mean they deserve more rights. Size doesn't equal value.

**Level of development.** Embryos and fetuses are less developed than the adults they'll become someday — but again, why is this relevant? Four-year-old girls are less developed than 14-year-old ones. The same holds true for boys. Should older children have more inherent rights than their younger siblings?

Those who say that immediate self-awareness is what makes one human could argue that newborns do not qualify as valuable human beings. Six-week-old infants lack the immediate capacity for performing any number of human mental functions, but so do the reversibly comatose, those with Alzheimer's disease, and even the sleeping.

**Environment.** Where you are has



### Guest opinion

with Scott Klusendorf

no bearing on who you are. Does your value change when you cross the street or roll over in bed? How can a journey of eight inches down the birth canal suddenly change the essential nature of the unborn from non-human to human?

If one asserts that the unborn are not already human, how does merely changing their location make them into persons of worth?

**Degree of Dependency.** If dependency is what makes us human, what do we make of those who depend on insulin or kidney medication? Would anyone propose that they may be killed?

What about conjoined twins who share blood and bodily systems? Shouldn't they have a right to life?

In short, it's far more reasonable to argue that although humans differ immensely with respect to talents, accomplishments, and degrees of development, they are nonetheless equal in value because they share a common human nature.

True, some people will ignore the scientific and philosophic case you present for the pro-life view and argue for abortion based on self-interest. That is the lazy way out.

Remind your critics that if we care about truth, we will courageously follow the facts wherever they lead, no matter what the cost to our own self-interests.

Klusendorf is president of Life Training Institute, based in Colorado Springs, Co., and on the Web at [prolifetraining.com](http://prolifetraining.com). This article is adapted from *How to Defend Your Pro-Life View in 5 Minutes or Less* at the LTI website, and appears here courtesy of Baptist Press.

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# Seminary panel debates future of American Christianity

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — While cultural Christianity is dead in an increasingly secular America, evangelicals have the theological resources to keep the faith, said R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., during a Faith and Freedom in the Public Square discussion Jan. 28 at the seminary.

Mohler was joined during the two-hour panel discussion by nationally syndicated radio show host and conservative pundit Dennis Prager, and New York Times columnist Ross Douthat. Topics include secularism, faith, politics, and shifting morality in America.

Douthat, a Roman Catholic whose 2013 book about religion in the United States, *Bad Religion*, appeared on *The New York Times* bestseller list, opened the session with a "view from Washington." He offered a "distillation" of the socio-religious environment and the cultural conversation in the nation's capital.

"The view from my city is that we are in this kind of post-culture war era in American politics," Douthat said, describing an era when most consider religious conservatism as "mostly gone into retreat."

Douthat, who moved to D.C. in the 1990s, recalled the debates surrounding the religious right, the Moral Majority, and more recent controversies concerning the role of faith in major political debates.

"It's remarkable to me as someone who was there for those debates, and participated in them, to see how quickly — this was just six or seven years ago — the conversation has shifted, and how strong the assumption is among American journalists, people in the American media, and people who work in politics that the sort of post-1970s religious right versus secular left cultural battles are of yesterday," Douthat said.

The consensus, Douthat suggested, is that "religious conservatism is weakening, that America in general is suddenly secularizing in ways that people didn't expect 10 or 15 years ago, that what's happening in the debate about gay marriage is kind of a microcosm of these trends as a whole; and that, frankly, if there is a sort of future in the debates about religion and politics, it's more likely to be defined by some resurgent religious liberalism which a lot of people are very eager to identify with the new pope."

Reacting to Douthat's summary of the nation's cultural ethos, Mohler pushed back against the idea that everything has changed since the culture wars of recent decades, saying that "the culture wars are over, except for where they're not." He noted specifically that the issue of abortion is today "more divisive than at any point since *Roe v. Wade* in 1973."

Mohler said the major difference in today's socio-religious



**PANEL DISCUSSION** — R. Albert Mohler Jr. (right), president of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., discusses religion in public life with New York Times columnist Ross Douthat (left) and radio talk show host Dennis Prager on Jan. 28 on the Louisville campus. (BP photo)

"It's remarkable to me ... to see how quickly — this was just six or seven years ago — the conversation has shifted, and how strong the assumption is among American journalists, people in the American media, and people who work in politics that the sort of post-1970s religious right versus secular left cultural battles are of yesterday."

**Ross Douthat**  
New York Times columnist

"With the death of traditional Judaism and traditional Christianity, you have the unbelievably dangerous belief that people are basically good, and everything flows from there to big government to believing that your opinion is what makes things moral, and that's where we now stand."

**Dennis Prager**  
nationally syndicated radio show host and conservative pundit

"There was in the center of the country — and I don't mean that geographically, but culturally — a cultural religiosity that was, in the main, a cultural Christianity that trended in one direction for the better part of 60-70 years, and it had a kind of moral authority that is disappearing before our eyes."

**R. Albert Mohler Jr.**  
president of Southern Seminary

world compared to that of the previous generation is a move away from a wide, almost requisite, acceptance of religion in all facets of public life.

"There was in the center of the country — and I don't mean that geographically, but culturally — a cultural religiosity that was, in the main, a cultural Christianity that trended in one direction for the better part of 60-70 years, and it had a kind of moral authority that is disappearing before our eyes," said Mohler.

Prager, a practicing Jew who in addition to hosting a radio show is a syndicated columnist and author, responded by suggesting several ways in which "this country is changing," each of which he tied to the loss of belief in a transcendent God or

moral standard. Prager specifically noted a "loss of meaning" and a loss of objective morality.

"We live in the age of feelings," Prager said, citing abortion rights as the greatest example of individual feelings guiding contemporary morality. The unborn child's worth is "entirely dictated by the feelings of the mother. It is an unbelievable statement of narcissism, which is what happens when there is no transcendent morality," he said.

Extending his theological argument, Prager pointed to assumptions about the nature of humanity as the fundamental dividing line between liberals and conservatives today.

"Everything in leftism follows from the belief that people are basically good," Prager said,

"and everything in conservatism follows from the belief that people are not basically good. Judaism and Christianity were united in teaching that people were not basically good."

"With the death of traditional Judaism and traditional Christianity, you have the unbelievably dangerous belief that people are basically good, and everything flows from there to big government to believing that your opinion is what makes things moral, and that's where we now stand."

After the trio set forth their assessments of America's contemporary religious landscape, Douthat posed a question about the declining number of religious people in the United States.

Mohler admitted that "right now there are fewer evangelicals

by theological definition than the sociologists tell us there are." The issue, he asserted, is not evangelicals departing from their genuine beliefs. Rather, many of those who, in a previous generation, self-identified as evangelical no longer do so.

Mohler alluded to a mid-20th-century America, particularly in the South, where affiliation with a church or religious group brought a certain amount of social and cultural credibility. "Cultural Christianity is dead," he said.

Yet Mohler was not entirely pessimistic. "I'm pretty convinced, if I can give you good news, that there are going to be evangelicals who keep the faith. Evangelicals in the main, though tempted by any number of things, have theological resources, if they will lean into them, that will prevent some of the things that have happened elsewhere," he said, referencing the near disappearance of liberal Protestant denominations like the Presbyterian Church (USA).

While conceding Mohler's point, Douthat questioned whether theologically defined conservative religion could restore conservative values to cultural prominence.

"The resilience of conservative religion may not have been as resilient as a lot of conservative believers hoped it was," Douthat said, adding that though theological grounding may be "enough for survival," it may not be "enough to restore its flourishing."

Mohler, returning to an earlier point about transcendent authority, said the primary difference in religious groups that fade away and those that continue to thrive is "oughtness."

"If there's no binding authority — if there's no 'ought' — then no one is going to pay to repair the [church] roof, and no one is going to feel guilty for not going to church," Mohler said.

"If you look at conservative Catholics and the conservative Jewish community, the conservative evangelicals, what you find is persons who actually believe there is a huge 'ought,' there is a transcendent reality, which is to say, [there is a] God to whom we are answerable and there is something at stake."

The three men fielded questions from the audience. Questions and answers ranged from the loss of God in public discourse and conservative involvement in pop culture, to the so-called cultural war on men and same sex marriage.

The event's emcee, Warren Cole Smith, associate publisher and vice president of *WORLD* magazine, introduced the panelists and moderated the question-and-answer portion of the evening.

*WORLD*, the largest Christian news magazine in the United States, cosponsored the event with Hashtag Productions.



In some woods near where I live, I saw some boys out playing. A tree by a ditch bank had fallen across a creek. It wasn't a very large tree, maybe five or six inches in diameter. The boys had cut the limbs off of it so that it made a little pathway across the creek. I thought how dangerous, foolish and dumb that was to be walking across that log from one side of the creek to the other. It was out in the woods some 20 to 30 yards, and I started to go out there where they were and explain to them that what they were doing could be pretty dangerous. Especially when the log got wet they could slip and fall in the creek.

I guess I could have pretended to be OSHA and demanded that they put up signs reporting on the number of people who had been hurt crossing a log, the number that had fallen off in a creek, or had just fallen and bruised or scratched something. But I chose to walk away because of all of the boyhood memories that came to mind of logs that I had crossed over and especially the ones that I had crossed over that were rain soaked that resulted in bruises, cuts and wet clothes. I had a slight tinge of guilt because I wondered if the next day I would hear about some boy with a broken arm or one that had gashed his head because he had slipped off of a log. I walked away remembering what great learning experiences that my buddies and I had received from crossing over a log that was too small and the pain that came.

Walking a slippery log can be a powerful teacher. Sadly, that is the only way some boys and a few girls ever learn. I thought of the great word that the Apostle Paul gave to all of us when he said, "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted" (Gal. 6:1). I was remind-



## Crossing a Creek on a Slippery Log

ed that everyone can slip and fall. The deacon, the preacher, the Sunday School teacher, the greeter, the singer, and the Sunday School time ringer can all in their own unique way from time to time take the risky path, slip and fall. It is impossible to stop everybody from doing dumb things and making tragic mistakes. You cannot stop boys from walking over slippery logs. Often when they do it and are successful they become emboldened to do it again and again. They do not realize the risk and the possibilities get higher and higher. It is that way with the human dilemma of sinfulness. Clearly, we can and do slip off of our moral standing before God.

While Paul was mindful that everyone can be overtaken in a fault, he was also mindful and instructive that we should be willing to do what we can to help someone up and out and rescue them. As I walked along, I could still hear the boys playing

so I was ready, willing and able to rush back over to the woods and respond if I heard a painful cry to see if I could help someone get up and maybe even out of the creek. You may not be a paramedic or a first responder, but when it comes to stepping forward to help someone when they have royally messed up or fallen off of the slippery logs of life, you and I are called of God to do what we can to help them up and restore such a one.

Now if they fall off, break something, or bloody their nose and you help them and then two or three days later they insist on playing on the log again and again, there comes a point where helping becomes impossible. It is probably at that stage of caring that it becomes most difficult for so many people and maybe for all of us to know when you have done all that you can do. I have seen that happen so many times in families and even with friends. A mom

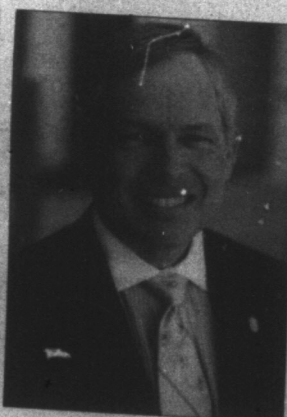
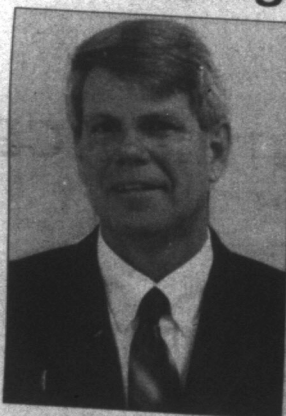
or dad may be trying to help a child or the children are trying to help a mom or dad, and they came to the place where they can do no more. At that point, I believe that God can give you peace. You may not feel good about the situation in someone's life but you can feel at peace with God and with your own efforts to help. You can leave the person and the situation in the caring hands of a mighty God.

A final thought about crossing a creek on a slippery log came to me as I reflected on those boys. I realized that I was not tempted in the least little measure to try to cross the creek on that log. What in the world had happened to me? When I was eight, 10, 15 or even a young adult, you could have just turned me loose, let me balance myself and I would have tried to get across that creek. Apparently, maturity has set in because I just did not feel obligated to go out there and try to cross the creek. Sometimes it is hard to define maturity, but in this case it was a mixture of falls, bruises, instructions from my parents and slips on logs myself that had convinced me that it was pointless and even dumb to enter into such an activity.

I suppose that my mom and dad, who have both been gone for decades, would probably be proud that finally some of their care, teaching and love along with a mixture of my own dumb mistakes and restoration afterward had finally sunk into my brain and my soul. In fact, for the rest of my journey in life I doubt that I will ever feel the compelling need to walk across a creek on a slippery log. In addition, because of God's instructions and His searching of my heart, there are other places that I do not walk either.

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## College News



(At Left) Ben Burnett, superintendent of the Lamar County School District, has been named the Dean of the **WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY** School of Education. Burnett has 28 years of experience in the public schools of Mississippi with 26 of those years with Lamar County Schools. He will take over the position as dean on June 1. (At Right) **MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE** President Lee Royce will be the recipient of a major award from one of America's premier higher education organizations. Officials with the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education's District III will present the region's executive leadership award to Royce at their annual conference in Orlando on February 18. In its eight-state Southeast region, the honor goes to campus leaders creating a vision for their institution, inspiring others, and encouraging innovation and risk-taking among employees. The award recognizes college executives supporting all aspects of fund-raising, and creating a positive image of their school.

## Revivals & Homecomings

► **Center Church, Blue Springs:** Revival, Feb. 16 -19; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Kara Blackard, speaker; The Lovelace Family, music, Wed.; Mike Brazeal, pastor; Wayne Barkley, minister of music.

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Clue: Q = I

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke 23:44

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# HOUSE TOPS.

February 6, 2014

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Matthew 10:27 NAS

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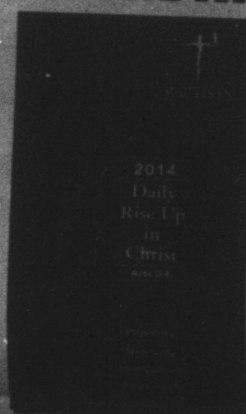
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Phone: 601-292-3310 • FAX: 601-714-7424

## HEALTH CONFERENCE



February 28, 2014

6-8:45 PM

FBC, Jackson

Featured Speaker: Joni Eareckson Tada

Joni Eareckson Tada, the founder and chief executive officer of Joni and Friends  
International Disability Center, is an international advocate for people with disabilities.  
A diving accident in 1967 left Joni Eareckson, then 17, a quadriplegic in a wheelchair  
without the use of her hands. After two years of rehabilitation, she emerged with new skills  
and a fresh determination to help others in similar situations.  
In 2003, Joni wrote her memoir "The God I Love," chronicling her journey walking with Jesus.  
Her latest book, "A Place of Healing," recounts her recent journey through physical pain  
and questions concerning prayer for healing.

Produce Music	Music	Organist/Pianist
6:00-6:05 p.m.		Dr. L. L. L. L. L.
6:05-6:15 p.m.	Theme Interpretation/Introductions	FBC, Jackson
6:15-6:45 p.m.	Spiritual/Intellectual Health	MS Baptist Convention Board
6:45-7:15 p.m.	Physical Health / DVD	MS Baptist Convention Board
7:15-7:30 p.m.		Dr. Barbara Sullivan
7:30-7:35 p.m.		Baptist Health Systems
7:35-8:45 p.m.	Featured Speaker	Joni Eareckson Tada, Joni & Friends

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:  
Church Growth Dept., Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205  
E-mail: [sbell@mbcb.org](mailto:sbell@mbcb.org)  
Phone: 601-292-3310 • FAX: 601-714-7424

## Marriage Celebration EVENING

Friday, April 4, 2014

Garaywa Camp & Conference Center  
Patterson Place, Clinton

Special Guest Speaker:  
Chris Webb, The Family Coaching Clinic Director

Cost: \$10 per couple

Deadline to register is March 28, 2014.

Patterson Place is available for lodging if you wish to spend the night. The cost is \$100 per couple.  
No meals are included in this cost. Deadline to register for lodging is March 28. Send payment for  
lodging and/or conference. Make check payable to: MBCB

Send payment to:

Discipleship and Family Ministry Dept.  
PO Box 530 Jackson MS 39205

Contact information: Glenn Shows [gshows@mbcb.org](mailto:gshows@mbcb.org) or 601-748-1651 ext. 373  
or Debbie Brasher [dbrasher@mbcb.org](mailto:dbrasher@mbcb.org) or 601-292-3284

# MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST MINISTRY ASSISTANTS CONFERENCE

## MOLD ME AND MAKE ME

APRIL 7-8, 2014

Join us at Garaway Camp & Conference Center for the Ministry Assistants Conference!

Special Guest Speaker:

Janie Walters

Worship Leader:

Jason Easley

Deadline to register is  
May 17, 2014.

Contact Cathy Taylor of the Pastor/Leadership Development Dept. for more information at 601-292-3305.

### 2014 SBC Church Compensation Survey

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Financial Resources  
David George

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Deadline is May 31!

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For more information contact Robin Nichols, MBCB GuideStone representative at 601-292-3226.

### ONE-DAY

## Stewardship REVIVAL

Many churches are discovering new insights and enthusiasm for financial planning through One Day Stewardship Revivals.

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Rick Blythe, Director

Lisa Leavell, Ministry Assistant

601-292-3347 • [leavell@mbcb.org](mailto:leavell@mbcb.org)

### BEGINNING RINGERS FESTIVAL

MARCH 7, 2014

BILLY BOWIE  
MINISTER OF MUSIC  
EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH | 245 MEADOWBROOK RD., GRENADA, MS 38901

For more information contact the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at 601-292-3267.



## IGNITE

A weekend missions event for all girls 7th-12th grades & their leaders.

Cost: \$48

(includes program fee, t-shirt,  
Garaway meals, lodging in cabins)

Deadline to Register: February 12, 2014

For more information contact the Mississippi WMU  
at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 319



# MMPF

MISSISSIPPI MISSIONARY FELLOWSHIP

# MMF

**APRIL 12, 2014  
8:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.**

Current missionaries on Stateside, Retired missionaries, Former missionaries  
you are invited to a reunion of Mississippi missionary fellowship!

**Light breakfast and a lunch is provided.**

Come enjoy the precious time with one another and hear reports from  
the field, drenched in prayer. If you know of someone who has not  
connected yet, please invite them.

For more information contact the Mississippi WMU office at 601-292-3319.

LIFEWAYS  
**Agency D3**

DISCOVER DECIDE DEFEND | PETER 3:15

**VBS KICK-OFF**

March 8, 2014

9 a.m. - noon

Richland, Mississippi

Community Center

410 E Harper St. in Richland (behind Walmart)

For more information contact Angie Boydston at  
a.boydstun@mbcb.org or Jo Wasson at j.wasson@mbcb.org  
or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 292, or 601-292-3292.

## Church Building Conference

March 13, 2014

Baptist Building, Skyroom

8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

For more information contact Mary  
Boydston at m.boydstun@mbcb.org or Jo Wasson at  
j.wasson@mbcb.org or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 292, or  
601-292-3292.

MISSISSIPPI KIDS CAMP 2014

# INFINITE

"FOR WHOEVER IS GODD, AND HIS LOVE IS ETERNAL,  
HIS FAITHFULNESS ENDURES THROUGH ALL GENERATIONS."  
PSALM 100:5

Camp I - June 23-25, 2014

Camp II - June 26-28, 2014

Central Hills Baptist Retreat  
Kosciusko, Miss.

\$150 includes lodging, meals, activities, & T-shirt

For registration information contact the

MBCB Sunday School Department at

601-292-3292 or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 292.

# webcast

**Student Webcast Training • March 13, 2014**

Student Leadership Trainer

Live Webcast from 6:30-8 p.m.

Thursday, March 13, 2014

How easy and convenient will it be? Connect with us from your church or  
home on your computer/laptop, phone or communication device of your  
choice.

**Is Your Student Bible Study Healthy?**

Several relevant topics on a healthy student Bible study will be shared by  
Chris Swan, Student Publishing at LifeWay. Following Christ as an interactive  
panel discussion will take place where you will be able to ask your own  
questions about your student Bible study.

Please contact r.boydstun@mbcb.org for details on how to be a part of our first  
interactive webcast.

Pray this day for...

*"But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, & spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may exult in You." Psalm 5:11*

February 7-20, 2014

Pray for: **Alvin & Mary Doyle**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through member care.

Pray for: **Aaron & Tiffany Epps**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Robert & Margaret Fortenberry**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **David & Gloria Glaze**, missionaries ministering to Deaf Peoples through media consultation & media promotion.

Pray for: **Clarence Frank Harrison & Phoebe**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples.

Pray for: **Guy & Cindy DeMars**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through hospitality coordination & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Thomas & Kerri Dewett**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Earl & Ramona Hewitt**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through medicine, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Raymond & Cynthia Hodgins**, missionaries ministering to Deaf Peoples through sports evangelism, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Jeffrey & Liesa Holman**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination.

Pray for: **Janey Holloway**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through student evangelism.

Pray for: **Ronald & Beverly Holmes**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Kenneth & Kimberly Hathcock**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through student evangelism, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Thomas & Bonnie Hearon**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through strategy coordination.

The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

# 2014 single-parent retreat

FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 1

CENTRAL HILLS BAPTIST RETREAT

for parents &

children (ages 6-10)

free day care provided for 5 & under

For more information contact the Discipleship &

Family Ministry Department of the

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at:

1-800-748-1651, ext. 284,

or 601-292-3284

or dbrashier@mbcb.org

4/1/93

Mr. Drew Williams  
Parents: Matt & Shea  
Last Frontier

4/2/06

Mr. Micah Milam  
Parents: Andy & Michelle  
European Peoples

4/5/04

Mr. Noah Carpenter  
Parents: James & Tracy  
Restricted

4/6/09

Miss Brooklyn  
Parents: J & M  
Restricted

4/11/12

Mr. A.S.  
Parents: S & M  
Last Frontier

4/16/12

Mr. Benjamin White  
Parents: David & Regina  
American Peoples

4/17/01

Mr. Ethan Milam  
Parents: Andy & Michelle  
European Peoples

4/26/05

Miss E.S.  
Parents: S & M  
Last Frontier

4/27/01

Miss Lindsey Williams  
Parents: Matt & Shea  
Last Frontier

4/29/93

Mr. Christopher Carlton  
Parents: David & Pamela  
South Africa



## Encourage an MK with a card!



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: MBCB WMU MK Birthdays, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.

PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU. Individual cards do not need postage stamps when sent as a package to MS WMU.

Please include your return address on each card envelope. MKs and their parents may wish to send you an update or note of appreciation.

# HOUSE TOPS




## Staff Changes



Louis Jones has retired as minister of music from **CALVARY CHURCH, CANTON**. He served Calvary for 18 years. Shown are Jones, Jerry Jones, and pastor Tom Rayburn.

### In other Staff News:

► Fred Tubbs, Nesbit, is available for supply, interim, and revivals. He recently retired from the pastorate at Orchi Church, Memphis, after almost 13 years. BA from Union University; M.Div. and Ph.D. from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He can be reached at 2122 Taryn Ln., Nesbit, MS 38651. (662) 233-6054 (H); (662) 298-6447 (C).



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**BGR**  
BAPTIST GLOBAL RESPONSE

**DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING**

Morrison Heights Baptist Church of Clinton, MS is hosting BGR Disaster Relief Training February 21st-22nd 2014. The training is required for teams traveling with BGR to areas affected by natural disaster like the Philippines. Visit [morrisonheights.org](http://morrisonheights.org) to register or for more info. \$10 cost covers meals.

## Controversy erupts over Christian song's Academy Award nomination

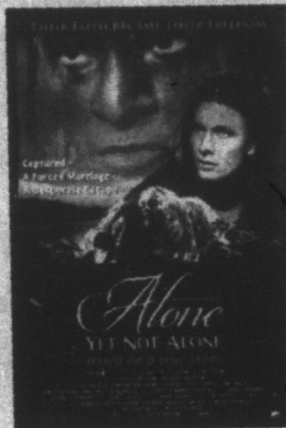
**BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (BP and local reports)** — The movie, *Alone Yet Not Alone*, lost its Academy Award nomination for best original song more likely because of Oscar-related politics than prejudice against the movie's Christian message, a film industry insider said.

The Disney animated movie, *Frozen*, nominated for best original song for *Let It Go*, opens with Vuelie, a tune including music from the Danish Christmas hymn *Fairest Lord Jesus*, said Ted Baehr, chairman of the Christian Film & Television Commission and director of its Movieguide of family movies and entertainment.

"As soon as I saw *Frozen* I recognized 'Fairest Lord Jesus' and I said, 'This is great, a big Disney film with *Fairest Lord Jesus* opening the movie,'" Baehr told Baptist Press. "That song is more explicit than *Alone Yet Not Alone*. So I don't know how you would explain it was a bias against Christianity if *Frozen* has a song with *Fairest Lord Jesus* in it."

*Alone Yet Not Alone*, rated PG-13 for violence, is based on the true story of Barbara and Regina Leininger, sisters whose faith was tested when they were captured by the Delaware Indians during the French and Indian War in 1755. Bruce Broughton, the film's producer, and Dennis Spiegel wrote the song that was initially nominated.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences rescinded its Oscar nomination for *Alone Yet Not Alone* on Jan. 28, citing Broughton, a former member of the Academy's Board of Governors and a current member of its executive committee, for using his influence in campaigning for the film among Academy members.



Baehr said the Academy nomination process is convoluted, and that the nomination withdrawal likely came after producers of successful blockbusters questioned the inclusion of a small, largely unheard-of production.

"Everybody promotes their projects... This is the normal human condition," Baehr said. "[The Academy] suddenly had a lot of big-name people who were saying, 'We didn't get nominated. How did this group get nominated?' So this is just like getting into a sorority or fraternity, getting into a club."

"There's cliquism involved here. Whether the cliquism had political motives or religious motives is hard to say, because there are other people in the system that were just as religious," Baehr said. "You've got a double standard. Why there is a double standard you'd have to intuit for yourself."

Christian author and speaker Joni Eareckson Tada, a quadriplegic advocate for people with

disabilities, sang the song *Alone Yet Not Alone* in the movie by the same name, which had a limited release last year and is slated for a broader showing June 13.

Tada would not speculate regarding the Academy's motivation but said the cancellation "in no way detracts from either the song's beauty or its message."

"Regarding the reasons for the nomination being rescinded, it is not my place to speculate as I have no insights into the workings of the entertainment industry," Tada said in a press release. "I was honored to be invited to sing the song and it will always be a treasured experience."

"I was grateful for the attention the nomination brought to this worthy song and the inspirational film behind it, as well as to the ongoing work of Joni and Friends to people affected by disabilities," Tada said. "The decision by the Academy to rescind the nomination may well bring even further attention, and I only hope it helps to further extend the message and impact of the song."

Tada will sing the song at the 22nd annual Movieguide Faith & Values Awards, which will honor Christian entertainment achievements, on Feb. 7 in Los Angeles.

She will also be the featured speaker at the Feb. 28 Health Conference at First Church, Jackson, sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Baptist Health Systems, Inc., and Summit Counseling of First Church, Jackson. There is no charge for admission.

For more information on the Health Conference, visit [mbcb.org](http://mbcb.org).

### Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically

via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: [baptistrecord@mbcb.org](mailto:baptistrecord@mbcb.org).

## CONFERENCE

cont. from p.1

they will all be blessed, encouraged, and that will help the church," Lum said. "As a matter of fact, I tell our leaders that they aren't preaching just to pastors, but are there to preach to Mississippi Baptists. This is a Mississippi Baptist event."

Lum had high praise for Northcrest Church. "The host church makes a big difference. People enjoy coming to a place where they feel welcome and their needs are met. Northcrest understood that. They made it a ministry." Lum also praised Dan Lanier, senior pastor, and Paul Davis, worship pastor, along with the rest of the church staff and laity.

Conference speakers included:

■ Fred Luter, pastor, Franklin Avenue Church, New Orleans, La., and president of the Southern Baptist Convention

■ Kevin Hamm, pastor, First Church, Gardendale, Ala.

■ Bob Pitman, Bob Pitman Ministries, Muscle Shoals, Ala.

■ Jeff LaBorg, First Church, Indian Trail, N.C. (East Campus)

■ Jim Futral, Executive Director-Treasurer, MBCB

■ Don Wilton, Pastor, First Church, Spartanburg, S.C.

Praise and worship was provided by Paul Davis, musicians, and choir from Northcrest Church.

Luter preached the Sunday evening service. Pastor Dan Lanier stated that there were 1,350 people attending that night, having to bring in chairs to seat the overflow.

Hamm chose as his text Revelation 2. "Life's greatest danger is forsaking your first love," Hamm said. He continued by saying, "The greatest problem in America is not in the White House but in the church house. Dry, dull churches are one of America's greatest problems."

Pitman preached from 1 Corinthians 15. In his message, he shared that "one of the devil's biggest lies is that people can't change. But Jesus does bring change — a real change, a wonderful change, and a spiritual change."

"Keep at it," Pittman encouraged, "be faithful, because your labor is not in vain, and one day in the future we'll all step over. To hear God say 'well done' is the great dream of my life."

Wilton preached in both the afternoon and evening sessions. He used 1 Kings 18 in the afternoon session. "Some of you have allowed the prophets of Baal to take over your life," Wilton said. "Leaders make a difference when they practice spiritual leadership. Elijah showed great conviction. What is consuming you?"

"... we are trying very hard to remind our pastors that this is not a pastor's conference. If they can bring leaders from different points in their church, they will all be blessed, encouraged, and that will help the church. As a matter of fact, I tell our leaders that they aren't preaching just to pastors, but are there to preach to Mississippi Baptists. This is a Mississippi Baptist event."

Don Lum

director of evangelism at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

LaBorg preached from Romans 12. "Don't read another study," he said. "You need to act on what you've learned, based on the doctrinal material in chapters one through 11." LaBorg continued by saying that "the issue in our churches is not education. I am not against education. But some of us have been educated beyond our intelligence. The issue today is union. We are to present ourselves as sacrifices."

Futral, using John 6, spoke about "stickability." "It's found throughout the Bible," Futral stated. "Jesus didn't feed the five thousand — he handed the job to the disciples ... Who gave you the authority to be in ministry? The disciples got authority from Jesus. He is the only authority you have. If you don't have that personal relationship, you won't stick with it."

After the dinner provided, Wilton brought the final message. From 2 Chronicles 30, Wilton spoke of how "the hand of God was on the people."

"There is a broken heart on every pew," Wilton said. "God doesn't consult you and me concerning what he wants for His people. Is God's hand on you at the moment?" Wilton stated that Hezekiah "begged the people to remember God's past record of all He'd done; to reject their unfaithful examples; to return to their original commitment; and rejoice in their promised future."

"The spirit was good, and not just in the church," Lum said. "People just loved being there."

The Mississippi Baptist State Evangelism Conference is sponsored by the MBCB Evangelism Department and is funded by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program. The 2015 conference will be held Jan. 25 - 26 at Brandon Church, Brandon.



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**CENTER TERRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CANTON, MS, IS SEEKING AN ORGANIST.** Contact the church at P.O. Box 78, Canton, MS 39046 or 601-859-4186.

**MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH, SMITHDALE, MS IS PRAYERFULLY SEARCHING FOR A BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC.** Resumes may be emailed to jaycshwilton@bellsouth.net or mailed to: Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Attention: Minister of Music Search Committee, 5599 Hwy 570, Smithdale, MS 39684

**HEBRON BAPTIST CHURCH IN MERIDIAN, MS, IS LOOKING FOR A BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC/WORSHIP LEADER AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY.** Will be responsible for Sunday morning and evening worship. If interested, please email a resume to hebronbaptist@bellsouth.net or mail to Music Search Committee, 4795 Vinnville Causeway Rd., Meridian, MS, 39031.

**ARLINGTON HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH, PASCAGOULA, MS, SEEKING FULL-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC/WORSHIP LEADER,** to further expand our music programs, i.e. vocal and hand bell choirs, ensembles, and children's choir. Our music style is a blended service. This person will also assist in other ministries where spirit-led. E-mail resumes to arlington\_church@bellsouth.net. Please include example of your style.

**EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH OF GREENVILLE, MS IS IN SEARCH OF A FULL TIME CHILDREN'S PASTOR.** Please send resumes to Emmanuel Baptist Church, Attn: Tommy Burford, 3600 Glendale Rd., Greenville, MS 38704 or email to tb\_birdlegs@yahoo.com

**UNION BAPTIST CHURCH NEAR MERIDIAN, MS IS PRAYERFULLY SEARCHING FOR A PART-TIME MUSIC WORSHIP LEADER.** Email your resume to aahm143@aol.com or mail to Union Baptist Church, 159 Hwy 514, Meridian, MS, 39301

**FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH IN ECRU, MISSISSIPPI, IS TAKING RESUMES FOR THE POSITION OF PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER.** You may send a resume or questions to Pastor Jonathan Baker at jonathan.baker@fbccru.com.

**PART-TIME YOUTH PASTOR SEARCH.** Send resumes to: Calvary Baptist Church Attn: Youth Committee P.O. Box 86 Fulton, MS 39843

**GUNTER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH IN FLORENCE, MS IS SEEKING A PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC.** Please send resumes to rdukes@bellsouth.net or via mail to Personnel Committee c/o Craig Dukes, 2209 Woodland Place, Florence, MS 39073.

## CLASSIFIEDS

**SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH IN MONTICELLO, AR IS PRAYERFULLY SEEKING A FULL-TIME MINISTER OF WORSHIP AND STUDENTS.** Please send resumes to SBC 1032 Old Warren Rd., Monticello, AR 71655 or e-mail to secondbaptist48@yahoo.com (or) kashemith@att.net by February 28, 2014. For questions call 870-367-2459 or 870-723-3392.

**FULL-TIME POSITION ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONARY WANTED FOR THE ARKANSAS VALLEY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION** located in the Delta of Arkansas, ministering to three counties that consist of nineteen churches. We ask those who are interested to prayerfully send your resume to: Attn: AM Search Committee, A/B/A, P.O. Box 2766, West Helena, Arkansas 72390.

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## MILITARY

cont. from p.1

chaplains are not concerned regarding the free exercise or expression of their faiths," Penrod said, adding that the sampling of chaplains on her teleconference believe if they do encounter issues that those would be handled appropriately.

Other military leaders testifying at the hearing also held that no substantiated instances of religious discrimination have taken place recently in the military, and that military chaplains of all faiths are free from any undue influence in matters of faith practices or conscience.

However, Carver pointed toward a climate that is creating a more restrictive faith environment while he acknowledged the military's history of religious freedom protection.

"It was my personal experience of 38 years as a commissioned Army officer that the mili-

tary placed the highest value on ensuring the religious liberty of our troops. The Department of Defense has historically, although sometimes too lengthy and cautiously, taken extraordinary measures to approve religious accommodation... Our troops, and most Americans, understand the tension that exists between the religious needs of a service member versus military necessity."

In addition to Nunnelee, Southern Baptists who addressed the hearing were Vern Buchanan, Doug Collins and Austin Scott, all of Georgia.

Response to the hearing prompted subcommittee chairman Joe Wilson, R-S.C., to call for an additional hearing on the matter within the next 60 days.

To view a video of the full hearing, read Carver's complete testimony, or find more information from the hearing, visit <http://goo.gl/GnPhXb>. To learn more about Southern Baptist chaplaincy, visit [www.namb.net/chaplaincy](http://www.namb.net/chaplaincy).

## BAE

cont. from p.1

North Korea was ranked as the world's top persecutor of Christians for the 12th consecutive year in a report released Jan. 8 by Open Doors, which seeks to strengthen the persecuted church.

North Korea practices a cult-like worship of the Kim family and continues to imprison from 50,000-70,000 followers of Christ in concentration camps, prisons, or prison-like conditions, according to Open Doors.

Three generations of the accused's family are routinely executed or imprisoned along with the accused, according to several former prisoners who have made their way to the West.

Possessing a Bible in North Korea could result in execution or a life sentence in prison.



# Our Savior: Crucified! • John 19:23-30, 38-42

"When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost," John 19:30 (KJV). This one verse states again the Apostle John's main point that Jesus is in full control all the way through these end events. The detail in verse 28 that Jesus said, "I thirst," (KJV) is a pointed reminder that Jesus is fully human as well as fully God.

The writer of Hebrews reminds us of Jesus full humanity when he says: "Now since the children have flesh and blood in common, Jesus also shared these, so that through His death He might destroy the one holding the power of death—that is, the Devil—and free those who were held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. . . . Therefore, He had to be like His brothers in every way, so that He could become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, . . ."

"For since He Himself was tested and has suffered, He is able to help those who are tested," Hebrews 2:14-18 (HCSB).

This helps us to understand part of what Jesus meant when He said, "It is finished," John 19:30 (KJV). His human life on earth with its testing and suffering were now finished as "he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost," John 19:30

(KJV). Jesus' human body was dead, full and completely dead.

The Roman execution squad clearly knew Jesus was dead as John witnessed, "But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they break not his legs," John 19:33 (KJV). John also points to a deeper meaning to the Jesus statement "It is finished" which points to the Old Testament prophecy from Psalm 34:20 "He keepeth all his bones: not one of them broken," (KJV).

John points out another Old Testament prophecy that was being fulfilled earlier in the account of the crucifixion: "Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout. They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scrip-

ture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did," John 19:23-24 (KJV). John is here quoting Psalms 22:18.

There was a very tender moment that occurred during all the harshness and brutality of the crucifixion. It is also part of what Jesus wanted to complete so that He could be finished. Jesus looked down

from the cross to see His mother in the crowd with His beloved disciple, John, the author of this historical account. Jesus took

care to honor the fifth commandment which requires that we are to honor our Father and our Mother. Mary, His mother, being a widow in society that made no provision for widows needed to have her needs met. Lovingly, Jesus asks the disciple that He loved to take care of His mother. And He did this in a loving and caring way.

"When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home," John 19:26-27 (KJV). Many readers take the statement, "And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home" to mean John took Mary home immediately to spare her further pain.

Immediately after providing for John to care for His mother, Jesus knew that He had taken care of all His responsibilities and fulfilled completely the scriptures: "After this, Jesus knowing that all things were accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled," died according to John 19:28.

What Jesus had accomplished must not be passed over lightly. Jesus had accomplished providing forgiveness for my sins; He died for me, and provided the gift of eternal life for me if I would only accept it. He did the same for you. Have you accepted the forgiveness and abundant life Jesus has already provided for you?

Hicks is a member of Brandon Church, Brandon.



Explore the Bible  
with Don Hicks

# Why Should I Trust the Bible? • Psalm 119:1-8, 137-144

Forever ingrained in my heart is the sight of my grandmother with her Bible open on her lap. It was she who taught me many truths of the Bible, in word and in deed. I've never knowingly questioned the trustworthiness of the Bible. However, I never realized until this lesson, the value of having "academic" evidence which further supports the reliability of the Bible. Such evidence can be a valuable tool as we seek to respond to those who doubt the validity of the Bible and the existence of God. A fraction of supporting evidence for its reliability includes:

**Archaeological Evidence** — Archaeology has done much to confirm Biblical history and has "shown the uniqueness of the Bible in its overwhelming accuracy compared to all other ancient writings" (Ravi Zacharias).

**The Historicity of Jesus** — Though many atheists deny Jesus ever lived, two first century historians, Flavius Josephus and Cornelius Tacitus, who were not Christians, are among those who wrote of Jesus ([www.godandscience.org](http://www.godandscience.org)).

**Scientific Evidence** — Matthew Maury, a U.S. Naval officer in the mid 1800's, was inspired by specific scriptures to research the "paths of the seas" and wind circuits, reasoning if the wind and ocean currents could be located and plotted, that it would be of great value to ma-

rine navigators, reducing drastically travel time on the seas. The Biblical statements were precisely verified and the research was a resounding success. Maury's home state of Virginia acknowledged the great debt navigation owes him with a monument in his honor and a plaque that lauds him as "Pathfinder of the Seas, the Genius Who First Snatched from the Ocean and Atmosphere the Secret of Their Laws. His Inspiration, Holy Writ, Psalm 8:8, Psalm 107:23,24, and Ecclesiastes 1:6" ([www.icr.org](http://www.icr.org), Institute for Creation Research).

**The Bible's Uniqueness and Unity** — The Bible was written by over 40 authors from diverse walks of life who wrote its 66 books over a 1,500 year span in three languages on three continents with one theme and no contradictions ([www.godandscience.org](http://www.godandscience.org)).

**Prophetic Evidence** — The Bible abounds with detailed prophecies that have been fulfilled exactly as God said they would be.

God honors His Word and backs it with His faithfulness. Psalm 119, the longest chapter in the Bible, extols the many virtues of the Word of God and its benefits to those who walk in obedience to it. The psalmist in verses 137-144 was keenly focused on God's Word while he dealt with ungodly men, trouble and anguish. David Guzik said of the passage, "The more the enemies of the psalmist rejected the Word of God, the more he was determined to be zealous for those words. He would make sure that he honored the Word of God even if others did not." He understood that the men who were vexing him would one day be gone, but God's righteous testimonies would endure forever, so he prayed that God would give him understanding and he would live. Many of us can relate to going before the throne of grace in desperate situations, crying out to the Lord for understanding. Sometimes the situations would remain the same, yet our hearts received the help

we needed because God blessed us with His understanding and with fresh insight into His Word.

The way of blessedness is pointed out in verses 1-4. Charles Spurgeon said, "Blessedness is ascribed to those who treasure up the testimonies of the Lord: in which is implied that they search the Scriptures, that they come to an understanding of them, that they love them, and then that they continue in the practice of them."

In verses 5-8 the psalmist realized his failings and prayed for the ability to obey God's Word and to walk unashamedly before Him. Wiersbe said, "If we feel ashamed when we read the Word, then we have to stop and find out why and then confess it to the Lord." The psalmist declared that he would praise God when he learned His righteous judgments. He ended the section with a desperate plea that God would not forsake him utterly and He didn't.

Riches abound in the Word of God! Why not warm up these cold winter days with a fresh commitment to God and His Word? Try reading a section of Psalm 119 each day until you finish it and list each day what you learned. It will revive and refresh your heart. Guaranteed!

Foster is a member of Murphy Creek Church, Louisville.

Bible Studies for Life  
with Patsy Foster



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## Just for the Record



**CALVARY CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO**, held a marriage retreat at Jolimar Summit with 17 couples attending. Ronnie and Beverly Cottingham, led the retreat. Hal Hatten, pastor.



**PRENTISS ASSOCIATION** held a discipleship rally at Mt. Olive Church. The churches of the association came together for a time of praise and worship, with the choirs from each church performing under the direction of Kenneth Leslie from Mt. Olive.



**TRINITY CHURCH, ITAWAMBA ASSOCIATION**, recently licensed Butch Nowlin to the ministry of preaching. Shown are Nowlin and pastor Don Baggett.



**FIRST CHURCH, RALEIGH**, honored Elizabeth Hegwood with a surprise day of honor Jan. 12 for her over 72 years of Bible teaching and service. Steve Stone, Associate Executive Director, Church Growth Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, brought the message and presented Hegwood with a certificate noting her service. Jeff Myers, pastor, presented her with a plaque. She is 92 yrs old, teaches a Sunday School class, serves as WMU president, and serves in other areas of the church.

### In other Church News:

➤ **Riverside Church, Monroey**, will host a Valentines Banquet Feb. 14, 6 p.m.

➤ **County Line Church, Cwett**, held a baby dedication Jan. 12. Allen Nix led the charge to the parents. Participants were Randel & Chrissie Hendrix and Holston Randel Hendrix.

Matthew & Melanie Martin and Ella Joy Martin; Adam & Lori Hancock and Reagan Landry Hancock; and Chris & Amy Meyers and Aiken James Meyers.

➤ The Northeast Mississippi Pastor Conference will be at **West Heights Church, Pontotoc**, Feb. 10. Speakers include Randy Bostick, Oakland Church, Corinth, and Eric Hankins, First Church, Oxford.



**CLARKSDALE CHURCH, CLARKSDALE**, ordained Tom Jones as deacon. Shown are Greg Hood, Patricia Jones, Jones, and pastor Don Dunavant.



**D'LO CHURCH, D'LO**, held an ordination service for Scott Sones Dec. 15, 2013. Shown are Sones, his wife Kristi, and his father Robert Sones who led the charge. Scott Sones is pastor of Hebron Church, Yazoo Association.



The children of **CALVARY CHURCH, SMITHDALE**, presented The True Meaning of Christmas program Dec. 22. A happy birthday Jesus party was held after the program.

## Truth is not relative.

Find it in the One who is the way, truth, and life.

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life.

From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (Receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

*"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)*

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist Church for spiritual guidance.